

The Status of our Rifle and Pistol Ranges

Many of our members have asked the status of our Rifle and Pistol Ranges. We hope that the following information will serve to provide you with the answers to some, and hopefully all of your questions. We just completed two Special Membership Meetings that were attended by one hundred plus members, and the Board is encouraged by the overwhelming support of the plans presented.

The Board has researched the best viable alternatives to improve our Ranges and have made our selection, based on viability, safety, and cost. We are currently out for bids for both Ranges. The plan presented includes the following key steps recommended by the National Rifle Association (NRA), and the National Shooting Sports Federation (NSSF).

1. Research various sources for "Best Practice" range configuration.
2. Select the design that maximizes safety at lowest reasonable cost.
3. Create engineering drawings.
4. Go out for bids and select contractor.
5. Begin Construction.

We are between step 4 and 5 at moment and our goal is to be operational as soon as possible.

A second factor recommended by the NRA is to have Range Safety Officers (RSO) coverage for all hours that we will be open. The good news is that we have had over fifty members who are committed to 9n hours of training and to serving a minimum of four hours of range time per month. We're in process of setting up this training, and will be starting as soon as training materials are available from NRA. At the moment, this coverage will allow us to be open a full eight hours on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. An alternative under consideration is that instead of 8 hours on Monday, to split RSO resources to be open half days on Monday and Thursday. As we get more volunteers, we can extend the open time to additional days. The limiting factor is getting enough RSO coverage for week days.

Third, the NRA and NSSF both recommend that all shooters have safety training, regardless of level of experience. We will have a program that will take only an hour of your time on a scheduled Saturday, followed by your being able to go out to the Ranges for enjoyment of shooting sport.

As you can imagine, the cost of the physical improvements are extraordinary. The Board has approved \$30,000 to get the Pistol Range up and running. The cost of adding baffles to the Rifle Range will be an additional \$56,000 and is currently unfunded. We have an experienced member who has volunteered to launch a fund raising campaign among our members and corporate donations, both of which are tax deductible. Watch your mail for further information.

How can you help?

1. Display your support in a tangible way by immediately renewing your annual membership.
2. Consider a tax deductible donation to support our 501C3 organization.
3. Put us in touch with the Corporate Staff or Management where you work, so that we can make an appointment and solicit a tax exempt donation from them,
4. Tell your friends about the pro-active work being done by our Chapter.
5. Volunteer for work days to do things like: reinstall target boards, clear brush from berms, etc.
6. Volunteer as RSO for week days.

If you desire additional information, want to volunteer, make a donation, or to become a week-day RSO, contact our Recording Secretary, Jay Butler at jaybutler1940@gmail.com and he will steer you to the right area.

We appreciate your patience, and you have the Board's assurance that we are working very hard to be back up and running as quickly as possible with Ranges that you can continue to be proud of.

Remember, our success is a Team Effort!

The Board